

SCHOOL BASED MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

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The Atlantic County Special Services School District in collaboration with the Center for Family Guidance (CFG) provides a unique opportunity for students with emotional and behavioral problems. Those students who have difficulty accessing mental health services in the community can receive services here as part of their school program.

At this time there are two licensed clinicians who are available to assess, diagnose and provide a variety of mental health interventions to meet the specific needs of the students. Therapists offer psycho-therapy and psycho-educational skill development, anger management (where age appropriate), as well as play therapy and behavioral strategies for younger students. Interventions with students are focused on school based attitudes and behaviors which present an obstacle to the educational process. In an effort to facilitate communication between the home and school, therapists may also involve parents in counseling to increase their understanding of their child's special needs. Members of the CFG staff are available as consultants for crisis intervention at all levels, and provide intervention strategies and alternatives to the teaching staff. Throughout the year CFG staff is also available to provide in-service training to support staff by targeting specific disorders or problem situations they encounter in the classroom when interacting with challenging students.